

Map Features

This 12 page map series of the lower Missouri River begins at its confluence with the Mississippi River near St. Louis and ends near Nebraska City 560 miles upstream. The river, as surveyed by the Missouri River Commission in 1879, is shown in gray, while today's channel is shown in blue. Each map covers about 50 river miles and is printed at a scale of 1 inch equals 2 1/2 miles.

Lewis and Clark Campsites, marked by an **X**, are provided courtesy of James D. Harlan, University of Missouri Geographic Resources Center. These campsite locations are products of the Lewis and Clark Historic Landscape Project that was conducted at the Geographic Resources Center, Department of Geography, University of Missouri in partnership with the Missouri State Archives, Office of the Missouri Secretary of State. To produce the campsite data, Mr. Harlan first created a map of the Missouri River that was primarily derived from the surveyors' notes and plat maps of the first General Land Office (GLO) survey of Missouri conducted between 1815 and 1819. For the Platte Purchase region above the Kansas River to the Iowa line, GLO surveys dating from the mid to late 1830's were supplemented with maps prepared by John N. Nicollet in 1839. The daily course and distances recorded by Lewis and Clark were then applied to these maps to identify the 70 campsites along the trail covered by this map series.

Lewis and Clark Interpretive signs have been placed or are being planned at publicly accessible locations along the route of the expedition. These signs are symbolized with an **i** on the maps.

Lewis and Clark Historic Trail is a nationally designated land route that closely follows the river trail. The route is highlighted in yellow on the maps.

Public Lands owned and managed by federal, state or local agencies are shown in green with labels. As you can see from the maps, most land along the Missouri River is **privately owned**.



For information about each public land area on a particular map look to the table on the facing page. Contact the managing agency for maps and camping or day use regulations. See back cover for a list of agencies and abbreviations.



Boat Ramps are shown with a ramp symbol. A table on each map's facing page provides more information about the ramps. All are concrete boat ramps. The ramps shown on tributaries also provide access to the Missouri River. River stages, both high and low, can affect access to these ramps.

Fueling Facilities for boats are scarce on the river. As of this printing only Cooper's Landing at river mile 170.2 provides fuel and pump out facilities on the river. Fuel may also be obtained from local gas stations along the river route. Plan in advance for fuel provisions and carry an extra fuel can.

Boating & Safety on the Missouri River

This brochure contains numerous safety tips and guidelines for boaters and other water recreationists. Please use caution when boating on the river and keep safety in mind at all times.

When Lewis and Clark traveled the river in 1804 they left no trace of their passage. We hope that all river users will respect the environment and "Leave no trace".

Before putting a boat on the Missouri River you should become familiar with the system of aids to navigation established by the U. S. Coast Guard. These aids to navigation (signs, markers, and buoys) mark a 300' wide by 9' deep navigation channel maintained by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

By constricting the majority of the river's flow between sets of rock dikes located on both sides of the river, the navigation channel generally maintains a minimal depth of 9'. The dikes extend nearly perpendicular into the river and may have a downstream "L-head" on the end. The dikes are often submerged just under the surface of the water and can be a significant hazard to watercraft.

To order Missouri River Navigation Charts contact the Missouri River Information Center (866) 285-3219. Lower Mississippi River Navigation Charts can be obtained by contacting the Vicksburg USACE office at (601) 631-5042. For Upper Mississippi River Charts contact the Rock Island USACE office at (309) 794-5338.

Aids to Navigation

176.9

MILE BOARD
(MARKER)

Mile Marker Boards are useful navigation aids that help you locate your position on these maps or on a navigation chart. Mile markers indicate the distance upstream from the mouth of the river (river mile 0), at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. The boards are attached to beacons (see below) on the river banks and indicate distances in miles. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers places additional blue or white mile boards on trees or posts located along the banks.

Beacons are permanently fixed to a post or other structure along the bank. Lighted beacons are called lights and unlighted beacons are called day beacons or day boards. Because the navigable channel of the river swings back and forth from bank to bank as the river bends, the beacons indicate where to cross or where to stay to the bank. Beacons are located at the beginning and end of each bend and crossing.



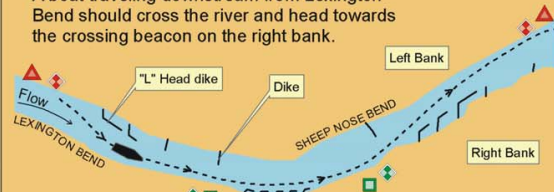
Passing Beacon is found at the start and finish of a bend and indicates that you should stay on that side of the river until you reach a crossing beacon.

Crossing Beacon is found at the start and end of a crossing. And indicates that you should cross the river and aim for the crossing beacon on the opposite shore.

Buoys are floating aids attached to the riverbed by concrete sinkers with chain or rope. Buoys are maintained by the U.S. Coast Guard during the navigation season, 1 April through 10 November.

Green "can" buoys mark the right descending channel, while red "nun" buoys mark the left descending channel. Keep your boat between the green and red buoys and give them wide berth. Buoys are not always present and may be carried off position by high water, collisions, drift in the riverbed or other causes.

A boat traveling downstream from Lexington Bend should cross the river and head towards the crossing beacon on the right bank.



At the passing beacon on the right bank the boat should continue along the right bank to the next passing beacon. Near the end of Sheep Nose Bend the boat should be steered towards the next crossing beacon on the left bank.